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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventor: Yasunari KIMURA et al. Group Art Unit: 3621

Appln. No.: 09/631,301 Examiner: D. Q. Le

Filed: August 2, 2000

For: INDIVIDUAL AUTHENTICATION METHOD, INDIVIDUAL  
AUTHENTICATION APPARATUS, ACCOUNTING METHOD,  
ACCOUNTING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement of September 7, 2004, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 11-16, drawn to method and associated apparatus for authentication at a POS terminal, classified in class 705, subclass 64, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement. No unduly extensive or burdensome search would be required to examine the various claims of the noted Groups in the same application. MPEP §803 states:

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner *must* examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis

added)

In the present case, the search for all pending claims together would not be burdensome.

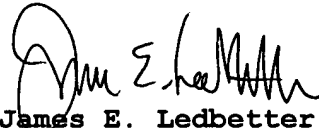
Moreover, from the standpoint of costs to the Applicants involved in filing, issuance and maintenance fees relating to separate applications if the present Restriction Requirement is maintained, it is clear that there is substantially more burden on Applicants by imposing the present Requirement than on the Patent Office if the Requirement were withdrawn.

In addition, it is noted that to require the claims of the various Groups to issue in separate patents would result in inconvenience to the public by necessitating reference to more than one patent during searching, to review closely related subject matter.

Therefore, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is warranted.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 23, 2004

JEL/ejw

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